

SANDOWN-SHANKLIN

(ISLE OF WIGHT)

URBAN DISTRICT



# Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

1948.



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# **Sandown-Shanklin Urban District Council**

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## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF**

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### **Medical Officer of Health**

**JOHN S. CAMERON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

### **Sanitary Inspector**

**ROGER B. GIRLING, M.R.SanI., M.S.I.A.**

(1, 2, 3 and 4)\*

### **Housing Officer**

**Mr. DONALD T. MOODY.**

- \* 1. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute;  
2. Meat and Food Inspection Certificate of Royal Sanitary  
Institute;  
3. Smoke Inspectors Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute;  
4. National Certificate of the Institute of Builders.

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 1949.

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To the Chairman and Councillors.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1948.

The year has been a notable one inasmuch as it has seen the inauguration of the National Health Service. The service has had its teething troubles and the Health Department received many brickbats, in fact, one might have thought the Medical Officer of Health directly responsible for any minor difficulty which arose. Many of the early difficulties have now been overcome, and on the whole the service is working reasonably.

The vital statistics of the district present a most interesting picture. There has been a remarkable fall in the birth rate from 18.2 per thousand of the resident population to 12.7. It is known that the birth rate in England and Wales as a whole fell from 20.5 per thousand to 17.9. It is significant that the fall in our birth rate is therefore well above the average. To set this off, there has been a fall in the death rate from 16.7 to 12.2 per thousand population. This compares with a death rate of 10.8 for England and Wales as a whole, and when one considers the number of people who come to the district on retirement, this figure is considered most satisfactory.

For the first time in six years there has been a maternal death. It is disappointing to have to record this in view of our previous record, but at the same time it is considered that one death in six years is a figure which speaks itself for the maternity services offered.

Infantile Mortality at the low figure of 29.9 per thousand live births is not significantly different from that recorded last year.

The notification of infectious diseases has fallen to the remarkably low figure of 30 cases notified during the year. The fall from 182 notifications in 1947 to 30 notifications in 1948 is a most significant one and speaks well. The fall is mainly accounted for by the decrease of notifications of measles. Whereas 133 cases were intimated in 1947, only 12 cases of the disease were intimated in 1948. There was also a sharp decrease in the cases of Infantile Paralysis, and during the year only 2 cases were notified, compared with 13 cases in the previous year.



The local population continues to increase and the present figure is 13,170, which is an increase of almost 600 on the 1947 figure.

The Housing shortage remains acute and overcrowding is still rife. In point of fact there are many houses in the district which the Health Department is particularly anxious to either condemn or largely rebuild, but we are still hampered by the lack of alternative accommodation which makes any large assault on the less sanitary houses in the district impossible.

The Diphtheria Immunisation figures have improved inasmuch as 55% of the pre-school child population is now considered to be immunised against the disease, but to offset this there has been a fall in the percentage of schoolchildren fully protected. 68.2% of these children are now fully protected, which is a diminution of 4% on the previous year. Continual efforts are still required to bring the percentage of schoolchildren protected against the disease to a satisfactory level.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN S. CAMERON.

## STATISTICS

### (1) General.

Area of Urban District (in acres)	...	...	...	3,509
Population	...	...	...	13,170
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to rate book	...	...	...	4,203
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£134,222
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	£534-10/-

### (2) Vital.

#### Live Births.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	...	12.7
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of England and Wales	...	...	...	17.9

#### Still Births.

Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	17.6
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#### Deaths.

	M.	F.	Total
	80	81	161
Crude death rate per 1,000			
Estimated resident population	...	...	12.2
Death rate England and Wales	...	...	10.8
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	1

#### Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...	...
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	29.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	32.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Measles	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	27

# PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Disease	Admitted		
	Total Cases Notified	to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	7	4	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	2	2	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	3	—
Measles	12	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	4	—	—
Poliomyelitis	2	2	—
Total	30	11	—

## AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Measles	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Meningitis	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1
2 " " 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
3 " " 4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
4 " " 5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
5 " " 10	2	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
10 " " 15	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 " " 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
20 " " 35	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 " " 45	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
45 " " 65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7	—	2	—	3	12	—	—	4	2

## DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS

Percentage of child population considered to have been immunised at 31.12.48. —

Under 5 years of age — 55.0%.

Age 5 to 15 years — 68.2%

# TUBERCULOSIS

			NEW CASES						DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
Age Periods			M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
Under 1	...		—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	...		—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	...		—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	...		1	1	1	—	3	3	—	1	—	4
35 — 45	...		1	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	...		1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	...		1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 — 75	...		—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
75 and over	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals			4	7	1	—	*12	4	—	1	—	†5

\*This total includes 1 old case left the Island and returned, 3 transfers from the mainland, and 1 case in which the death return gave the first information.

†This total includes 1 case in which the death return gave the first information.

## Non-notifiable infectious diseases (Schools return) : —

Chicken pox	...	...	51	German Measles	...	...	3
Scabies	...	...	—	Influenza	...	...	—
Mumps	...	...	30	Ringworm	...	...	—
Impetigo	...	...	—	Jaundice	...	...	—
Conjunctivitis	...	...	1				



# Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1.

## WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of Shanklin is derived from the Chillerton wells and the catchment areas at Wroxall, Oxlease and Cowleaze. Part of the Rural District derives its supply from Shanklin sources.

Sandown draws its supply from the Yar, and from Dyer's springs at Newchurch. The water supply of the Borough of Ryde has been augmented from this source as from September 1947. At no time during the year was there any deficiency of quantity.

Bacteriological examination repeatedly gave satisfactory results from the point of view of quality.

## Public Swimming Bath

There is only one public swimming bath in the area at Sandown. During the year 5 samples were taken and submitted to the laboratory. In each instance B. Coli was absent from 1/100 M.L. of water which shows that a high standard of purity was maintained.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1948 for the Urban District of Sandown-Shanklin in the County of the Isle of Wight.

### PART I OF THE ACT

#### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	34	25	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	34	25	3	—

#### 2 Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	3	—	2	—

### 3. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

#### (a) General Sanitation

Nature of Inspection						Number of Visits	
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	27	
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	226	
Stables and Piggeries				...	...	21	
Tents, Vans, and Sheds	...		...	...	...	59	
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	25	
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Refuse Disposal			...	...	...	40	
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	15	
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	184	
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits			...	...	...	235	

#### (b) Housing

##### Under Public Health Acts

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	433
Visits paid to the above houses	...	...	...	615

##### Under Housing Acts

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	25
Visits paid to the above houses	...	...	...	17

##### Overcrowding

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	12
Visits paid to the above houses	...	...	...	20

##### Verminous Premises

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	28
Visits paid to the above houses	...	...	...	22

Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	...	...	...	121
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#### (c) Infectious Diseases

Inquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

## 4.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Visits to

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	9
Butchers	...	...	...	67
Fishmongers	...	...	...	30
Grocers	...	...	...	52
Cowsheds	...	...	...	21
Dairies	...	...	...	27
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	112
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	63
Restaurants	...	...	...	100
Total Visits and Inspections	...	...	...	2652
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	255
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	138
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	9
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	5
Total				407

During the year the following quantities of foodstuff were found to be unsound and condemned : —

Bacon	...	...	180lbs. Gravy Salt	...	...	15lbs
Biscuits	...	...	72lbs. Margarine	...	...	1383½lbs.
Butter	...	...	564lbs Meat	...	...	1225lbs.
Cereals	...	...	3316lbs. Sugar	...	...	5231lbs.
Cheese	...	...	258lbs. Sweets	...	...	31½lbs.
Cooking Fat	...	...	771lbs. Tea	...	...	13½lbs.
Dates	...	...	2½lbs Tinned goods	...	...	1107½lbs.
Eggs	...	...	99lbs. Tomato Flavoured	...	...	
Fish	...	...	544lbs. Ketchup	...	...	5600lbs.

Total weight of unsound food condemned — 20,413½lbs.

The large amount of foodstuffs condemned during the year was largely due to an unfortunate outbreak of fire at one of the provision merchants in the area.

On two occasions the help of the Public Analyst had to be sought to confirm action taken by the Food Inspector.

Cheese was the article involved in the first instance, the cheese in question having a flavour suggestive of disinfectant.

Although there was no evidence of outward contamination the cheese on analysis was found to contain a mould which gives rise to Phenols which accounted for the unpalatable flavour.

In the other instance, following reports of a substance purporting to be Tomato Flavoured Ketchup causing the bottles in which it was contained to explode, a sample was sent to the Analyst who stated that it was in such an advanced stage of fermentation that accurate analysis was impossible and the whole unfit for human consumption. The whole of the stocks were withdrawn from sale and destroyed.

## ICE CREAM

### Sampling.

Examination of Ice Cream samples is carried out at the laboratory of the Ryde Hospital. In the district there are 127 premises registered for the Manufacture, Storage, or Retailing of Ice Cream. Of these manufacturing is carried on at 7, 3 of which use the cold mix process. During the year 31 samples of ice cream were submitted for examination with the following results :—

Grade 1, 11; grade 2, 11; grade 3, 7; grade 4, 2; Total 31.

Action was taken in the case of the unsatisfactory samples and improvements obtained in the handling and sterilisation of the utensils used.







